

6-2010

Bellarmino Museum Brochure - Imagine

Bellarmino Museum of Art

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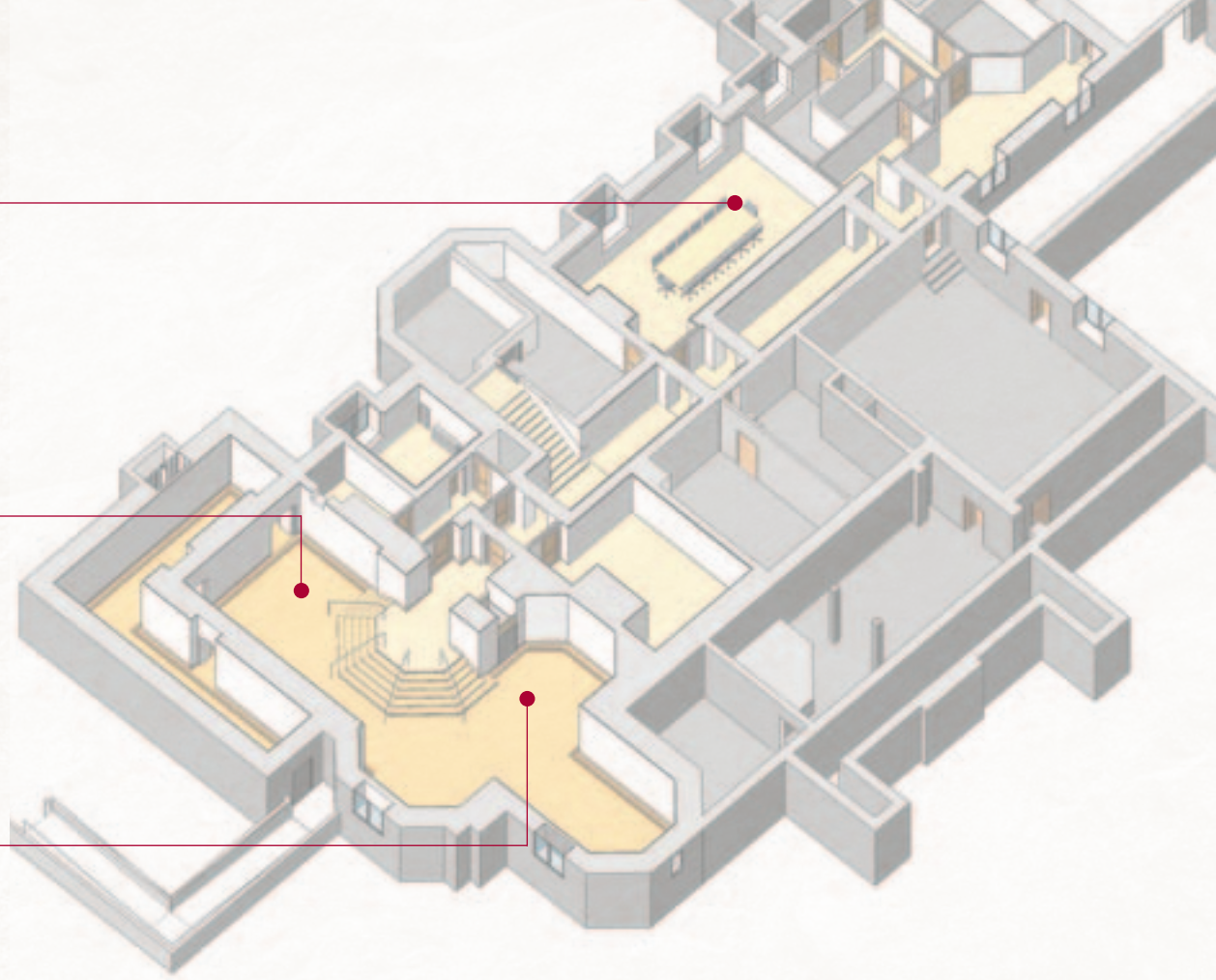
Bellarmino Museum of Art, "Bellarmino Museum Brochure - Imagine" (2010). *General Ephemera*. 4.
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Imagine...

Imagine a museum that serves as both an inspiring venue for engaging with the arts as well as a place for quiet reflection. That place is the Bellarmine Museum at Fairfield University.

Art is a universal language, capable of uniting individuals and societies across time, space, and history. It is also a critical component of a holistic educational experience, with deep and meaningful ties to the Jesuit pedagogical tradition. These truths have long been championed by Fairfield University, through its steadfast commitment to the humanities. From its core curriculum to its rich array of extra-curricular cultural endeavors, the University strives to integrate Arts & Minds. Nowhere will this marriage be more explicit than in the Bellarmine Museum, which the University will inaugurate in the fall of 2010.



Bellarmino Hall

Imagine a space steeped in history and tradition. That place is Bellarmine Hall, Fairfield University's signature building on campus and the new home for the institution's growing art collections.

Custom designed for Walter B. Lashar in 1921, Bellarmine Hall (originally called Hearthstone Hall) reflects the Tudor manor homes that the building's founding patron enjoyed visiting on his extensive tours of England in the early 20th century. The Jesuits purchased this handsome structure from the town of Fairfield in 1942, and renamed it Bellarmine Hall in honor of St. Robert Bellarmine, S.J., (1542-1621) cardinal and patron saint of Fairfield University. It now serves as the foundational building for the University. Under the guidance of Centerbrook Architects and Planners (Centerbrook, CT) the lower level of the building will be repurposed to serve as a place where Fairfield's commitment to excellence in education, the arts, and the Ignatian tradition can be explored and cultivated.



IMAGINE THE
A new museum at
Fairfield University

Delecture. Dare. Move.

To delight. To teach. To move.



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

ARTS & MINDS



BELLARMINE
Fairfield University

The Museum

Imagine a space that not only showcases and protects significant art objects, but also accommodates ancillary educational activities and a dedicated staff.

When completed, the new museum in Bellarmine Hall will boast three galleries, in addition to a corridor that will showcase the University's cast collection, an office for the director, a seminar classroom, workspaces, and storage areas.

The museum's central gallery, The Frank and Clara Meditz Gallery, which evokes an early Christian basilica in plan, will feature art from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Complementing this will be two smaller side galleries, in which the University's collection of Non-Western art, together with a selection of plaster casts after Greco-Roman antiquities, will be displayed.

The Art

The Met Loan

The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA) and the affiliated Cloisters Museum have agreed to lend twenty Celtic and Medieval art objects for variable periods. This loan, the largest of its type made by the MMA in over a decade, speaks to the integrity of the Bellarmine Museum project. It also raises the exciting prospect of future collaborations with the MMA and other world-class institutions.

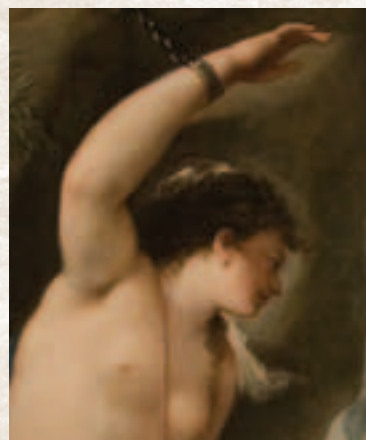
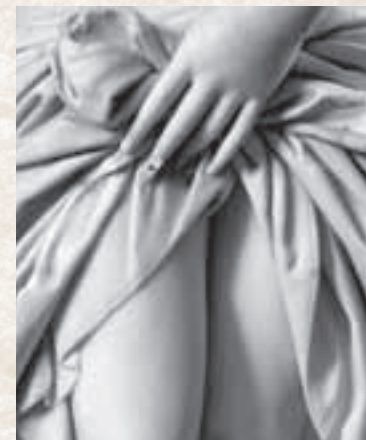
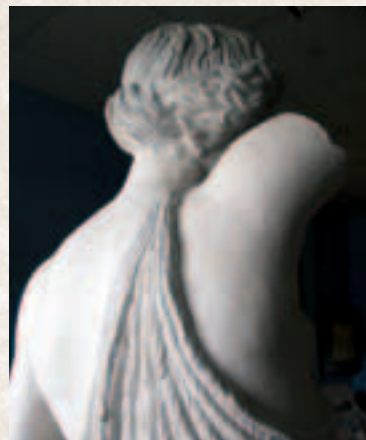
The Kress Foundation Collection

The Kress Collection at Fairfield comprises ten paintings by minor masters of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque. These works were donated to the University in 2002 by the Museum of Art, Science & Industry (now "The Discovery Museum") in Bridgeport to honor the spirit of Samuel H. Kress's "Gift to the Nation." This "Gift" presented in excess of 3,000 works of European art to the National Gallery of Art, regional museums, and college and university galleries across the United States.

The Plaster Cast Collection

Fairfield University's rapidly expanding Plaster Cast Collection is composed of casts after works of art from the Classical world through the Renaissance, with an emphasis on ancient Greece and the Parthenon. A majority of these casts have been lent to the University on long-term loan or gifted by the MMA from its historic cast collection.

THE BELLARMINE MUSEUM



The Asian Art Collection

The Asian Art Collection at Fairfield University has grown over the years through the generosity of alumni and friends. The collection, which features works from China, Thailand, India, and Persia, provides a critical window onto distant cultures. This in turn fosters knowledge, understanding, appreciation, tolerance and respect, all of which are critical facets of Fairfield's commitment to Global Citizenry.

Engaged Learners

Imagine a "laboratory for learning." This aspiration will be fulfilled by the programmatic aspects of the Bellarmine Museum, where Fairfield University students from a myriad of disciplines will engage in cross-curricular activities built around the firsthand experience of art. Programming in the new museum will also target the learning and enrichment of school children and mature learners from surrounding communities, as well as scholars, art professionals, campus staff and faculty, alumni, and casual visitors alike.

An Opportunity

The Bellarmine Museum could not be realized were it not for the generosity of Fairfield's patrons, alumni, and supporters. A generous donation of \$2.5 million from trustee and alumnus John Meditz '70 has helped to support the renovation and installation of the museum in Bellarmine Hall. Thanks to this and other gifts visitors will soon enjoy a museum that, as Meditz said, "will more fully integrate life and learning on campus."

Further support has come from a grant from the prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which awarded the project a \$500,000 four-to-one challenge grant. The University is currently seeking support for this match, which will fund a \$2.5 million endowment. Fairfield is also looking for partners to help the University reach its goal of \$3.1 million to pay for the capital project itself.

For information on the development of the Bellarmine Museum, please contact Geri Derbyshire, (203) 254-4000 ext. 3486, gderbyshire@fairfield.edu; or Dr. Jill Deupi, Museum Director, (203) 254-4000 ext. 2215, jdeupi@fairfield.edu.

Website: www.fairfield.edu/museum